



CITY OF CHICOPEE

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT



STANLEY J. WALCZAK, C.P.R.P.
Superintendent

RICHARD G. MACIOLEK
Assistant Superintendent

Minutes of the regular meeting held on March 9, 2010

Commissioners present were: Chairman Gary Ziemba, Vice Chairman Robert Erhardt, Secretary Elizabeth Montemagni and Commissioners Nancy Fenton and Doug Girouard. Also present was Superintendent Stanley J. Walczak and Assistant Superintendent Richard Maciolek.

Chairman Ziemba called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Girouard, seconded by Ms. Fenton, to approve the January 26, 2010 meeting minutes as written.

Motion by Mr. Erhardt, seconded by Mr. Girouard, to approve a request by the Life Point Church to hold a picnic at Szot Park on Sunday, June 6 from 11:00 – 6:00 p.m. along with other recreational facilities with the usual fees charged.

Superintendent Walczak reported that all department employees and Commissioners must take the online training relative to ethics requirements and conflict of interest laws.

Motion by Ms. Montemagni, seconded by Mr. Erhardt, to approve a request by the Hampden County Mothers of Twins Club to hold a tag sale at Preston Park on Saturday, May 1, 2010. Commissioner Girouard abstained from the vote.

Motion by Ms. Fenton, seconded by Mr. Girouard, to approve a request by Dave Henry to use three diamonds at Szot Park starting April 27 for the Inter-Church Slow Pitch Softball League with the usual fees charged. Also approved was their request to hold their annual All Star Game on June 22, 2010 at Szot Park.

Motion by Ms. Montemagni, seconded by Mr. Erhardt, to approve a request by Jean Fitzgerald to hold the Annual Night Out Against Crime on Monday, August 2, 5-9:00 p.m. at Sarah Jane Sherman Park.

Motion by Ms. Fenton, seconded by Ms. Montemagni, to approve a request by Barry School to use the water spray feature at Garrirty Grove Park for a school field day.

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Motion by Mr. Erhardt, seconded by Mr. Girouard, to approve a request by Side by Side Preschool to use the Szot Park Picnic Pavilion on Friday, June 18, 2010, from 8-2:00 p.m. with the usual fees charged.

Motion by Ms. Fenton, seconded by Mr. Erhardt, to deny a request by Shawn Alexander to have a D.J. for a July 3 picnic at Szot Park. The Commission in its denial cited a past policy of no loud music which may effect other families in the picnic area or the abutting residents at Park Place off Abbey Memorial Drive. A small radio or boombox would be acceptable provided that the sound levels again do not interfere with the aforementioned groups.

Motion by Mr. Erhardt, seconded by Mr. Girouard, to defer any action on Mr. Stanley Borowiec's letter so that problems with parking could be addressed by the Chicopee Braves Football Association. Commissioner Erhardt informed the Commission that the request by Stanley Borowiec would be handled internally by the Chicopee Braves Football Association. Mr. Borowiec had concerns about illegal parking on Gill Street which hindered access from their residences. Mr. Erhardt indicated that cars would be prohibited from that street during Braves football games and all parking would take place at the school.

Motion by Ms. Fenton, seconded by Ms. Montemagni, to table a request by the Chicopee Youth Football Association until certain issues by the Association were rectified internally.

Motion by Mr. Erhardt, seconded by Mr. Girouard, to deny a request by WNEC to use Chicopee fields for a club soccer program.

Motion by Mr. Erhardt, seconded by Mr. Girouard, to table a request by Holyoke Catholic for a future field for a boys & girls lacrosse program. The Commission and Department needs time to evaluate whether any field is available and whose responsibility for maintenance and preparation of the field lies.

Superintendent Walczak reported that the Department is working with B, H&A., the Szot Park Gateway Grant architect, to gather various information on the stadium's usage, attendance, concession operation, maintenance procedures, public safety concerns as well as building codes. The architect is also seeking other documentation on surveys, building drawings, utility plans and energy and water usage. The data will be compiled into a draft for a final design development.

The Commission by unanimous vote decided not to pursue the acceptance of the Sara Jane Sherman State Pool on Meadow Street by the Division of Conservation and Recreation. The Commission cited the numerous pool facilities and spray park presently available to city residents especially in the Willimansett area. DCR was attempting to transfer ownership of the State pool to the City because the Parks Department has successfully operated many of its water resource facilities. The Commission also cited

operating expenses and the ability to secure sufficient lifeguards as other concerns in rejecting the State's proposal.

Superintendent Walczak reported that the Fest of All will run again this year starting Thursday, June 24 until Sunday, June 27, 2010.

Plans are underway to refurbish both the Ike Alpert and Sarah Jane soccer fields for this year. Alternate fields will be set up at Nash and Garrity Grove Parks.

Superintendent Walczak reported that maintenance efforts continue in refurbishing park settees, picnic tables, ticket booths, trash barrels, etc. Work continues at various parks in removing overgrowth of shrubs, trees and other vegetation at several parks. Trash removal at parks as well as removal of fall leaves continues on a daily basis.

Assistant Superintendent Maciolek reported that the Mens and Youth Basketball Leagues have concluded for the season. One Chicopee Suburban team won the boys 5-6th grade title. The Department is presently running a 13-14 Division March Madness Basketball Tournament. Efforts will be made to review the current basketball season with recommendations to improve the quality of play and to specifically look at player and coach conduct at games.

The Department will hold its Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 3 at Szot Park. Applications for camp positions have closed while forms for park related positions will remain open until April 23, 2010.

Motion by Mr. Erhardt, seconded by Mr. Girouard, to approve the Spring Athletic Sports Schedules for Chicopee High, Chicopee Comp and Holyoke Catholic.

Superintendent Walczak reported that the Department accepted a Springfield College student, Carolyn Suchy to serve an internship with the Department.

Motion by Mr. Girouard, seconded by Mr. Erhardt, to award the Szot Park Concession bid to Dogs N Such for the year 2010 with two option years.

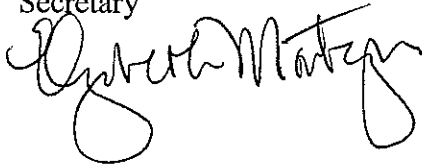
The Commission will review a request to increase the pay scale for baseball and softball umpires who do youth league games for the Department. Action will be taken at the April meeting for any approvals.

Motion by Mr. Girouard, seconded by Ms. Montemagni, to approve a new camp policy relating to days off for camp employees. Commissioner Montemagni suggested that the wording be listed as "in the event of time off needed, employees will be restricted to a limit of 5 days for the summer".

Motion by Ms. Montemagni, seconded by Ms. Fenton, to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

The next meeting of the Commission is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, either April 13 or 27, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Montemagni
Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth Montemagni", written in a cursive style.